

This snake which is the only one I have seen, measures about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length. It was taken on a plantain tree at Nagpur in October and is at present alive in the Vivaria of the Nagpur Museum. I propose calling it *Z. mucosus* var *pallidus*, as I see no difference in lepidosis between it and *Z. mucosus*.

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CENTRAL MUSEUM,  
NAGPUR, 6th December 1917.

No. XVI.—NOTES ON A GRAVID *HYDROPHIS CYANOCINCTUS*  
AND HER BROOD.

(With a diagram.)

In my monograph of the Seasnakes\* under the species *Hydrophis (Distira) spirates* (Shaw), and *H. cyanocinctus* (Daudin) I questioned the validity of several species described by various authors. I pointed out that many of these were merely separated from the two species above cited on characters affecting the postoculars, temporals, and supralabials, all shield subject to great variation in individuals of the same species. This variation is such that these shields are in my opinion not even an aid in the separation of species, and certainly too insecure as the basis for describing species.

This was merely an opinion, and one that is open to anyone to contest. It is obvious that anyone might contend that the individuals upon which I based my opinions were not of the same species. This being so the most convincing means of establishing the truth of my contention is to subject a gravid female and her unborn brood to critical examination. There can be no doubt in such a case that the specimens are of one species.

It is not often such a specimen comes into my hands, but one such I reported upon in this Journal (Vol. XX, p. 858) the subject being a *spiralis* (Shaw).

I have now obtained through Dr. Malcolm Smith from Siam a gravid *cyanocinctus* (Daudin), and the information derived from an analysis of the lepidosis of dam and brood forms the subjects of this note. I append outline drawings of the head of the mother, and two of the brood, (Nos. 2 and 7 of the synopsis). I also give a synopsis of the salient features concerning these, and some other specimens to be referred to later.

It will be observed from the figures that in the dam there was but one preocular on both sides. In No. 2 there are two on the right side only, and in No. 4 two on both sides. This shield is confluent with the supra-ocular in No. 3.

In the dam there is one postocular on both sides, but in Nos. 2, 4, 6 and 7 there are two on one or both sides.

In the dam there is one small anterior and one larger posterior temporal, but in Nos. 6 and 7 there are two posterior temporals on both sides.

In the dam the first four labials are large, the rest small, but in No. 2 the 3rd right labial is divided to form a lower postocular, and the 4th right, and 5th left are also divided.

With the gravid female I received six fetuses that had been removed from their sacs, and two sacs in which the embryos lay coiled. Also four adults, one young specimen and the head of an adult, all without any doubt examples of the same species. All of these are included on the synopsis, and figures are given of three of them.

\* Memoirs Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1909.